

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

Call to Order: Chair Brian Hoven, on March 16, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 335 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Brian Hoven, Chair (R)
Sen. Nels Swandal, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mary Caferro (D)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Margaret (Margie) MacDonald (D)
Sen. Frederick (Eric) Moore (R)
Sen. Albert Olszewski (R)
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon (R)
Sen. Diane Sands (D)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Sue O'Connell, Legislative Branch
Barbara Pietuch, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SR 49, 3/9/2017

Executive Action: SR 49 - Be Adopted
HB 126 - Be Concurred In As Amended
HB 338 - Be Concurred In
HB 345 - Be Concurred In
HB 523 - Be Concurred In

00:00:01 Chairman Hoven

00:01:25 Chairman Hoven turned the Chair over to Vice Chair Swandal.

HEARING ON SR 49

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:38 Sen. Brian Hoven (R), SD 13, opened the hearing on SR 49, Confirm Governor's appointee for Director of Dept. of Agriculture.

EXHIBIT(ags55a01)

00:02:36 Sen. Moore entered the meeting.

00:03:33 Ben Thomas, appointee, Department of Agriculture (DOA)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:07:10 Sen. Salomon
00:07:45 Mr. Thomas, DOA
00:08:51 Sen. Salomon
00:09:11 Mr. Thomas
00:10:00 Sen. Salomon
00:10:19 Mr. Thomas
00:10:53 Sen. Sands
00:11:13 Mr. Thomas
00:12:07 Sen. Sands
00:12:18 Mr. Thomas
00:12:54 Sen. Moore
00:13:34 Mr. Thomas
00:14:38 Sen. Osmundson
00:15:29 Mr. Thomas
00:17:02 Chairman Swandal
00:17:07 Mr. Thomas
00:18:08 Sen. Lang
00:18:24 Mr. Thomas

Proponents' Testimony:

00:19:08 Errol Rice, executive vice president, Montana Stockgrowers Association
00:21:17 Lola Raska, executive vice president, Montana Grain Growers Association
00:22:58 Krista Lee Evans, executive director, Montana Agriculture Business Association
00:24:02 Robin Thomas, mother

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

00:25:49 Chairman Swandal

Closing by Sponsor:

00:26:03 Sen. Hoven

00:26:28 Sen. Hoven resumes the role as Chair.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 49

00:26:55 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Swandal moved that **SR 49 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 126

00:28:43 **Motion:** Sen. Swandal moved that **HB 126 BE CONCURRED IN**.

00:29:14 **Motion:** Sen. Osmundson moved that **HB 126 BE AMENDED**.

[**EXHIBIT\(ags55a02\)**](#)

Discussion:

00:29:22 Sen. Osmundson

00:31:53 Sen. Salomon

00:32:39 Sen. Lang

00:33:06 Sen. Swandal

00:33:23 Sen. Osmundson

00:34:31 Sen. Swandal

00:34:44 Sen. Osmundson

00:35:44 Sen. Lang

00:36:20 Sen. MacDonald

00:36:54 Krista Lee Evans, executive director, Montana Agriculture Business Association

00:39:18 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-2 by voice vote with Sen. Caferro and Sen. MacDonald voting no.

00:39:41 **Motion:** Sen. Swandal moved that **HB 126 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED**.

Discussion:

00:39:55 Sen. Sands

00:40:17 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-1 by voice vote with Sen. Lang voting no. Sen. Osmundson will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 338

00:40:53 **Motion:** Sen. Swandal moved that **HB 338 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

00:41:12 Sen. Swandal
00:41:19 Sen. Moore
00:43:22 Sen. Swandal
00:43:45 Sen. Moore

00:44:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Lang will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 345

00:44:48 **Motion:** Sen. Swandal moved that **HB 345 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

00:45:03 Sen. Sands
00:45:13 Sen. Moore

00:45:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Sands will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 523

00:45:51 **Motion:** Sen. Swandal moved that **HB 523 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

00:46:08 Sen. MacDonald
00:46:33 Sen. Sands
00:47:02 Sen. Swandal
00:47:09 Sen. Smith
00:47:27 Sen. Moore
00:48:02 Sen. Lang

00:48:57 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Tempel will carry the bill.

Committee Business

00:49:23 Chairman Hoven

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:51 PM

Barbara Pietuch, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ags55aad.pdf](#))